P.O. Box 15018, Albany, NY 12212-5018

1-800-332-3742

A Special Message from Governor Pataki

May 2005

Dear EPIC Participant:

If you have Medicare, you will soon begin receiving information from Medicare or the Social Security Administration about new prescription drug coverage that will be made available to you.

We will send you updates on the new Medicare drug benefit and your EPIC coverage. Please, watch your mail for these important notices.

Here is some important information about your EPIC membership and the new Medicare benefit:

- EPIC will continue to exist to make sure you receive the medicines you need.
- You can choose to join a Medicare drug plan, and continue to use EPIC if you wish, for even more savings. This may save you more on your drug costs than using EPIC alone.
- · EPIC enrollees with low incomes will have their EPIC enrollment fee waived if they join the Medicare prescription plan.
- When the federal Medicare benefits are used, the EPIC Program will also save money, which will help New York State continue to provide you with excellent EPIC benefits.

We encourage you to consider enrolling in a Medicare prescription drug plan this fall when they become available. As always, we are here to help you understand the new Medicare drug benefit and how it can best work for you. Please don't hesitate to call the EPIC Helpline toll-free at 1-800-332-3742 if you have any questions or concerns.

Jeorge E. Pataki